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POETRY: *A Magazine of Verse*

A WORD FOR MR. GUEST

To the Editor: I suppose you will hardly care to print a brief protest against your condemnation of Mr. Guest. Let me say at once that I entirely agree with you that his verses are not poetry, perhaps not even literature, in your and my sense of the term. Neither is the bulk of Longfellow. Yet both Longfellow and Mr. Guest touch the human heart in a fashion quite out of the reach of most of the estimable writers who monthly adorn your pages. Mr. Guest's trivial little poems impart something—perhaps not much, but something—of the sweet high consecration of rhythmic ecstasy to the common things that make up the daily experience of millions of readers who would be quite insensible to Ezra Pound and Amy Lowell. Also, I think you vastly over-estimate the importance of Mr. Guest's reward. It is precisely proportioned to his production: dull, sordid dollars, and the loud vociferation of the thick-breathed vulgar which your finer-natured poets would instinctively disdain. And I disagree totally with your view that Mr. Guest is a menace to literature. On the contrary, I do not believe that his verses distract one single reader from a better order of poetry, while they may lure many readers, through the medium of his rather obvious music, to something much more worth while. Surely you do not imagine that, if Mr. Guest were altogether eliminated from a world of which I esteem him a considerable benefactor, the circulation of POETRY would be increased by

A Word for Mr. Guest

a single subscriber. Those who read Guest will never read Sandburg, and those who read Sandburg will never read Guest. Why not let each reader have what appeals to him and helps him?
Gamaliel Bradford

NOTES

The initial Blindman Prize of \$250 has been awarded by the Poetry Society of South Carolina to Grace Hazard Conkling, for *Variations on a Theme*, which was named by Miss Lowell, the appointed judge, as the best of many poems submitted in a contest open to all poets writing in English.

Mr. William H. Simpson, of Chicago, who has appeared in POETRY before, has been for years in the service of the Santa Fe railroad, of which he is advertising manager. Extensive travels on and from this road have interested him in our south-western wonderland and its aboriginal life. Mr. Simpson used to write verses in his youth, and of late he has resumed the art more seriously.

Mr. Carlyle McIntyre, of Los Angeles, has also appeared in POETRY, but has not yet published a volume. A book, published some years ago by a poet of almost identical name, is not his.

Mr. Glenn Ward Dresbach, of El Paso, Texas, will soon issue his third book, *In Colors of the West* (Henry Holt & Co.).

Mr. David Greenhood, now a resident of San Bernardino, Cal., was a member of Witter Bynner's poetry class at the University of California a few years ago.

Flora Shufelt Rivola (Mrs. Charles) of Yankton, S. D., is another familiar contributor.

The other poets of this month appear here for the first time.

Mr. Raymond P. Fischer, formerly of Chicago, is now in Upland, Cal.

Winifred Welles (Mrs. H. H. Shearer), of New York, is the author of *The Hesitant Heart*, published last year by B. W. Huebsch.

Mr. Joseph Auslander, born in Philadelphia of Spanish and Russian parentage, and a graduate of Harvard, is now studying at Oxford, England. His poems have appeared in various magazines.